

# The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1913.

## GERMANY'S NEW MILITARY PROGRAM.

Germany's program of army increase and its consequent imposition of a heavy additional burden of taxation upon the people and the matching thereof in kind by France do not necessarily mean, as the alarmists would have it, that the two countries are making ready to fly at each other's throats again. It does not follow that the one is preparing to attempt "to crush her enemy finally," and that the other is setting her military house in order for a war of revenge.

There are grave contingencies of the future which may precipitate a trial of that conclusion. But Germany's action is aimed only indirectly at France, and, whereas it has naturally stimulated the anti-German feeling among the French masses, since Germany is responsible for the further military and tax exactions they must meet, France could not be justified in construing it as a challenge to arms at this juncture. Germany could not expect the moral support of the world in committing an overt act of aggression. Quite the contrary. Nor could France expect it in provoking such an act.

In the conditions of the present European situation, and the change of equilibrium forecast by the Balkan war, Germany's course is simply a necessary precaution, compelling a similar course on the part of France. It is in essential anticipation of virtual German isolation. It is recognition of the fact that practically the bottom of the triple alliance has dropped out. How, and why?

Because of the rise of the new power in the Balkan peninsula, Austria-Hungary, apart from having antagonized that power, has forced Russia into a sympathy with it, irrespective of Russian ambition for Southern Slav leadership. The Balkan confederation, or whatever the concert may develop into, by treaty among its members of governmental unification, will be on the "raw flank" of the dual monarchy, with 25,000,000 of the latter's population actively or passively disaffected towards Austro-Hungarian rule.

In the event of Germany's being drawn into, compelled to, or provoking hostilities for any reason with Russia or France, she would be in between two of the parties to the triple entente—would have to face two ways—with Austria-Hungary, owing to the menace on her Balkan frontier, in no position to render her any material aid, likewise, from the necessity of her double facing, should Austria-Hungary be attacked by the new Balkan power, or by Russia, or the two in conjunction, Germany's hands would be tied in the matter of giving her Austro-Hungarian ally armed support.

Meanwhile and furthermore, in view of Italy's Tripolitan acquisition and enlarged Mediterranean interests, it would take little to withdraw that power from the Disputand and throw her into the arms of England and France.

Therefore, it would appear that, whatever time may hold affecting the peace of Europe as resultant from Germany's current military program, her primal and wise object is to safeguard against unpreparedness for prospective isolation. In the circumstances of her not being prepared she would, both by reason of comparative physical weakness and as respects prestige, court being caught between the upper and the nether millstones.

Hence it is difficult to conceive how she could act otherwise. Infortunate as may be the necessity, the conditions and coming possibilities fortify her policy. She has simply, by exemplifying in its logical extreme the doctrine, "If you would have peace, prepare for war," in a way, not the other powers on the defensive on the question of keeping the peace.

In a word, her only safety until the new balance of power in Europe shall be permanently adjusted, lies in inviolability.

## "AN UNAVOIDABLE ACCIDENT."

Two deaths have occurred in Richmond within a few weeks, each of which has been explained as due to "an unavoidable accident." In one case a misunderstood prescription led to the taking off of a child; in the other, a speeding fire automobile crumpled the life out of an old man. No malice produced these tragedies. There has been the bitterest regret and sorrow on the part of those who were the agents of death. The community has not felt justified in punishing any one connected with the unfortunate accidents, but has rather sympathized deeply with them and the bereaved.

Yet the fact of two lives blotted out remains. Regret avails nothing to undo the consequences. The plea of accident explains nothing, nor is there much hope that the future will be void of similar occurrences. Why should we have "unavoidable accidents"? In particular, why should accidents occur in cases where the danger is inherent? The administration of medicine is always fraught with risks, and the flight of thousands of pounds of steel through

crowded streets can never be absolutely safe. There is a burden attached to dealing with possible instruments of death that makes the accident excuse less potent than in the case of a really unavoidable accident, such as a natural catastrophe. Where the matter lies within human hands and skill and intelligence, there should be no such thing as an "unavoidable accident." It is known now that a trifle more of care, forethought and premeditation would have saved these lives. The flock of "ifs" that circle like vultures after "accidents" prove how they could be avoided.

In the end, is it not a matter of valuing time against human life? Haste makes waste is true, but true. Modern society must see that speed always exacts a heavy penalty. We should seriously judge as to whether the time we sometimes save by risky methods is worth the frequent penalty.

That schedules can be made without accident if the human element is impressed with its duty has splendid illustration in the service of street car motormen. These everyday heroes might have a thousand things to excuse on the ground of "unavoidable accident." But they do not. They do not take chances. They see the accident in advance. Cannot life be safeguarded by the same spirit in other occupations?

## BREAKING BREAD FOR RICHMOND.

It is not unusual to have some ceremony at the breaking of ground for a great enterprise. The Business Men's Club is going to inaugurate to-day the newer custom of breaking bread for Richmond. Fifty of the members will get together around the luncheon table to talk about greater Richmond. The particular topic to be discussed will also have something of ground-breaking in it, since it will be "Annexation." We cannot think of a subject of greater fundamental import to our future civic life, nor one better calculated to interest representative business men. It is very fitting that when the A's and B's of the club gather for a feast, that they should take up one of the A B C's of our community life. The right basis in hand is preliminary to all other growth.

The Business Men's Club has already done much for the welfare of the city. In its rooms every day earnest work is done among small groups for the betterment of commercial and industrial conditions. But the centering of attention on prominent questions of policy will give definition and point to otherwise scattered interest. If fifty-five business men really become enthusiastic over annexation, they can be of tremendous service in helping the city to solve part of its problems.

The social benefits of these weekly luncheons will be of equal value to the civic spirit inspired by free discussion. When men know each other, understand divergent points of view, get opinions from all areas and all professions and all sections of the city, they will be able to act intelligently, and with that community feeling and effective solidarity that achieves big things. We suggest only one addition to the admirable program already outlined by the club executives. Why not have an occasional talk from some outside expert? Richmond needs advice and perspective. The stranger can often see our needs more clearly than we who are in the midst of the battle.

The Times-Dispatch believes that these luncheons will be of marked service to this community. They will be a success, and they will be preliminary to larger plans for public good. We welcome the "talk-fests."

## HOW FARM WOMEN CAN SECURE MORE LEISURE.

Miss Florence Kessell, of Roanoke, Va., suggests in a recent bulletin of the Harrisonburg State Normal and Industrial School, some ways by which women can find time for leisure. Here they are:

"Have a place for everything, and keep everything in that place. Nothing wastes so much time as looking for things."

"Be precise. If the time for rising is 5 o'clock, do not lie in bed till half-past, unless there is good reason."

"Do all the hard work possible in the morning, so as to have the evening for light work and for planning for club meetings, etc."

"Have new conveniences, such as cream separators, improved churns, and the new mop for polishing floors."

"Have lights and water in the house. I think this is one of the best ways to save time."

"Systematize work. Plan one day the work for the next."

"Each member of the family should have a special part of the work to do, so it will not all fall on one."

"Never let the work pile up."

"Take farm papers, so as to keep up with new improvements, etc."

"Have a horse and buggy that can be used at any time."

Miss Tracy S. Gline, of the same county, asserting that "most of us have lived on a farm or know the duties of farm women," says that some of the things that will help farm women to more leisure are:

"Systematizing their work. Each one should have regular times to perform her different duties."

"They should have plenty of kitchen utensils."

"When they go to prepare a meal they should not get in such a hurry and run from the dining-room to the kitchen, a dozen times before they know what they want, but simply stop a few minutes and think."

"They may take their sewing and go to a neighbor's and sew and talk at the same time. They should not talk about every one in the neighborhood, but about the literature they read, their club, etc. Another good way is to let one person read to the others while they sew."

"Farm women should use more canned fruit and not cook so much, but have light lunch occasionally."

"Have regular hours for meals."

"If women know one day they want to go to a club meeting the next

day, they should arrange their work so they can go."

"Let the men do some of the work, as carrying coal, making fires, etc. This will help the women very much." These suggestions seem very practical and wise, but The Times-Dispatch would be glad to have the women of the farm themselves indicate how they may have more leisure.

## EFFICIENCY AND PATRONAGE.

The biggest business in this country is that of administering the country itself. The sum of \$701,000,000 was received by the United States as its total ordinary receipts for the year ending June 30, 1911. And nearly all of this vast sum came from customs and internal revenue. How to get back three-quarters of a billion dollars a year into circulation without disorganizing the business of the whole country is the problem that the administration has to face. And what Mr. Wilson meets at the outset is the importance of "easing" one administration into the other with the least possible jar. So far the methods of the incoming President have been as horrifying to the office-seekers as they have been admirable in the opinion of the taxpayer. Whatever else he may propose to do, it is plain that President Wilson is not going to follow the glorious example of Andrew Jackson, who made famous and popular that sonorous war cry, "Turn the rascals out!"

When Andrew Jackson was elected there was no such modern invention as the civil service between the desires of the patriots and the pie counter. "The wild asses" whose caperings in the green corn have so much distressed Senator Tillman, were veritable battle chargers in the thirties. Then Democracy, as proved by a vote at the polls, was the sole test for office-holders, and Old Hickory's followers swarmed up to Washington like hiving bees, and all found honey. To-day, an arid and cruel waste of desolation faces the Democratic faithful. Democracy is one of the last attributes that the office-seeker requires. On all sides he is asked such unheard-of questions as, What are your capacities? What do you know about the position for which you are applying? Will your selection further the public service? And though the answers spring with ready facility to the lips of the longing place-seeker, still President Wilson and his advisers have showed a most unheard-of slowness in their desire to fill offices.

Taking the cue from their leader, the Cabinet heads are moving as if their sole object was to provide the best service for the people at large. Could anything be more undemocratic or appalling? President Wilson has said that many Republicans can finish their office terms. Secretary McAdoo has not even announced the list of positions that he could fill. Secretary Bryan has only given out a scanty few of the places at his disposal, and it really looks as if the sole object of the administration was to enforce efficiency, even if some Democrats are kept out of office longer than they expected.

But there is this comforting consideration—if the Democrats set this example and really strengthen the civil service and effectively demonstrate that they can give this country a better government than it ever had before, the long-suffering and oft-disappointed voter may be foolish enough to send the Democrats back to power again. And even the Republicans may learn to follow Mr. Wilson's example and keep good men in office, even if they are Democrats.

Can Sir Thomas Lipton come back? President Taft broke the presidential traveling record. Here's hoping Woodrow Wilson will break the stay-in-at-home record.

The tax lists now being sent out will probably attract more attention this year than last. They bring the need of a change in Virginia's revenue laws close home.

President Wilson is a puzzle to the politicians because he knows what he wants as well as what they want, and they have no notion of what he wants.

In just about a month the accident insurance rates on umpires will take a jump.

The new administration is not steering a ship of state. It is driving the water wagon.

Among other things some secretary should look into the matter of new slugs to take the place of "O you kid" and "I should worry."

Perhaps it is better to let the wild asses trample the corn than to use it to make fatter pork for the bar!

The suffragists are learning practical politics. They are no longer going to waste time talking to the women in the parlor. Men have long since avoided the parlor for politics.

No wonder the Washington police were helpless if, as a contemporary states, they were really "over-slaughed." That's a pitiable state.

The turbulent Senators might arbitrate.

It certainly is too bad that people cannot ride to work on these traction franchises.

Data on the economic laws of public utility services can be gained from a study of the private gas plant in South Richmond. Built to serve a private clientele, it cannot compete successfully with the city, and it cannot sell to the city a plant that would be of small value in connection with the city gas system. This is a concrete realization of what may happen in a larger way to public service corporations in Richmond unless they be installed and operated in accord with laws that cannot be changed.

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

These here new fangled auto cars are handy, it must be confessed. But when it comes to pleasure I enjoy the old bay mare the best.

When I go out joy riding with my best gal sittin' by my side, I know that I will get back home, for my old mare is true and tried. She never makes me walk nine miles to find a country blacksmith shop. Where I kin get her tires repaired. I'm not afraid of any cop. She's got it forty ways upon a short-in', sneezin' gas machine. And she's the best old sparkin' plug that me and my gal's ever seen.

Her carburetor works fast rate, her coolin' system is famous. And you kin run her all day long and at a very light expense. She's never laid up for repairs, she doesn't have to wear no tag. She never plunges in the ditch, for she's a very steady nag. The speed laws she don't violate and I have never yet got pinched. For safe and sane enjoyment, I have surely got the method cinched. No folks that walk are cussin' me, I don't scare 'em out of their boots.

By runnin' up behind 'em quick and lettin' out a lot of toots.

She don't use up no gasoline or balk or back or wheeze a bit. She kin run by a roadhouse without tryin' to turn in to it. I didn't have to pay no mortgage on my house when I got her. My creditors don't stand and wonder what on earth I bought her for. She's good for many seasons and each year she don't go out of style.

And make me buy a new one every spring and lose my hard earned pile.

She never yet has tossed me out into a tree to break my neck.

Of course, the autos are all right, but give me my old mare, by heck.

## From the Hickeyville Clarion.

Amie Hillyer is getting the machine in shape so his wife can run it this summer. It is a Light Running Domestic.

Elmer Spink invited Deacon Stubbs up to hear him play the piano. They say Elmer is one of the best car players in this part of the country, but the deacon says that is a lie, for Elmer didn't play with his car, but with his hands, the same as any other pianist.

They kin reform drunkards and dope fiends in some cases, but there don't seem to be a bit of hope for a feller that has got his hair and curls it up on each side of the neck.

There is just about as much sense in tryin' to mow a lawn with a safety razor as there is in tryin' to make a \$10 a month man answer all the requirements of a \$100 a month job.

It seems as though most all of the fellers that ain't in the life insurance business are painting signs or doin' stunts in vaudeville.

The village council passed an ordinance providing that all screens should be removed from the saloon windows by the first of May. It was an unobstructed view of the interior. The proprietor of the Golden Nugget now stands at the door.

Mr. Lem Butts attempted suicide yesterday by tryin' a mule's tail to his chest. He couldn't hold it, but so that nobody might see him do as well as could be expected, if not better.

The sewin' circle will meet next Friday afternoon with Mrs. William Tibbitts, and as no meetin' has been held since Deacon Bibbs eloped with his church, it is expected that the session will last far into the night.

## Advice to Husbands.

When your wife makes a hat for herself with a total expenditure of 39 cents, don't fail to admire it, no matter what it looks like. Don't admire it so much that she will grow suspicious, but admire it judiciously. Don't tell her it is the most beautiful creation you have ever seen, but one of the most beautiful.

When your wife's relatives come to spend a week or two with you, try to make things pleasant for them. Let the furnace go out and forget to order the meat and groceries.

Whistle merrily when you come up the front steps late at night and make all the noise you can getting into the house. That will show her that you have no reason to conceal anything, and that your conscience is perfectly clear whether it is or not.

## On the Wagon.

It's a long and lonesome ride on the wagon.

On the wagon, beside.

On the wagon, But you don't see cows with wings.

Or a green giraffe that sings Or a rattlesnake that stings Or a pink bobcat that springs

Or a grizzly bear that clings Or a thousand other things.

On the wagon,

Amherst.

## In Reply to Dr. Hagby.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: I have no disposition whatever to burden your columns with any further communications on the question of the Bible in public schools, but Dr. Hagby's article of March 1, published in your issue of March 1, seems to me to necessitate for me to say a word. In his article the apparently seeks to discredit the paper adopted by the Baptist Ministers' Conference on Monday last and published in full in The Times-Dispatch of Tuesday morning, by saying that it "was adopted by a single majority of vote; some of us were absent on account of the snow-storm prevailing." It is of no particular interest to the public perhaps, and yet it may be well to say, in view of the part of the State we, of course, are bound by what we consider the teaching of the New Testament, by the instruction of the State, and by the mental rights of the citizens to protest most earnestly.

Later on in the same paper, the same idea is thus expressed: "The moment the State, through any of

## PUT THIS LABEL ON YOUR GOODS

Telephone e MADISON 303 and ask CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE MARKETPLACE OF THE SOUTH

Th' feller that's goin' to the dogs knows where his real friends are. Some fellers have greatness thrust upon 'em an' others have long whiskers.

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